



SITUATION REPORT #112

INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: October 1, 2020	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents - Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	Number
Confirmed Cases	928
Recovered	852
Deaths	5
2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Out-of-County Residents – Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	
Confirmed Cases	0
Tests Submitted –	Number
Estimated Pending Tests Results	N/A
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	17,219
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	68
College Place	121
Dixie	5
Prescott	36
Touchet/Lowden	12
Waitsburg	1
Walla Walla	685
TOTAL	928



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Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	116
20-39	359
40-59	313
60-79	110
Over 80	30
Confirmed Cases by Gender	Number
Female	418
Male	518
TOTAL	928

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 10/5/2020
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.



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1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-20209289852	9/28/2020	Tier 1 Consolidated PPE request	Accepted by Logistics

2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) meetings with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Local Health Officer, Prosecuting Attorney and Local Emergency Response Coordinator completing Voluntary and Involuntary Isolation Orders specific to COVID-19.
- Maintain contact with media to keep the public informed.
- Unified Command calls providing regular communication and collaboration.
- Frequent messaging on Facebook, including Spanish-language posts.
- Providence St Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) Population Health team monitoring PUIs and cases, their awareness of community happenings.
- Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) food bank distribution in collaboration with Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Southgate Campus Acute Care wing setup.
- Addressing homeless needs for isolation and quarantine during pandemic.
- DCH Environmental Health team consults for prevention planning for essential businesses.
- Controlled access to WalMart, Home Depot, Albertson's and Safeway.
- Procurement of PPE from Washington State Department of Corrections.
- Continued partnership with WNG.
- DCH virtual meetings with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Proactive work on PSA's and infographics with digital marketing company.
- Solid protocol established between Coroner's Office and PSMMC.
- Tyson compliance with DCH/L&I Essential Business Guidelines and testing of employees.
- Delivery of PPE supplies and test kits from UAC SEOC has enabled us to provide much needed protection to our whole community.
- Experience with annual flu immunization clinics and long history of working together gave us the ability to quickly put together a team for testing at the Tyson Plan. 1,290 Tyson employees tested with staff from PSMMC & DCH.
- Aggressive testing at long-term care facilities.
- Spanish-language PSA's on local Spanish-language radio stations.
- Approval of additional DCH positions and increased hours by the Board of County Commissioners.



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- Media specific email and phone number established, the centralized PIO email/phone number is working well and is helping with coordination of interviews.
- Protocols developed by PSMMC to do surgeries for most compelling cases that were delayed.
- Volunteer staffing at DCH.
- DCH/PSMMC/Coroner/Consulate's Office worked together to support a local family with international funeral arrangements.
- PSMMC has done a great job of allocating resources, workers, and supplies for the patients under investigation awaiting results.
- DCH conversations with school districts on distance learning strategies and graduation planning.
- PSMMC tabletop exercise for activation of PSMMC's auxiliary hospital; well attended by community partners.
- Formation of business/economy reopening workgroup. Workgroup team meetings including townhall Q&A with local businesses; webinars to help educate businesses. Continued frequent meetings of the workgroup. Use of Chamber of Commerce website for posting documentation/guidance.
- Tour of PSMMC Alternate Care site, DCH isolation and quarantine sites, and Park Manor by DOH Med Surge Branch.
- DCYF, Whitman, and DCH debrief on activation of isolation and quarantine for Master's Ranch – West juveniles; successful collaboration.
- Approval of WWEM part-time temp position for logistics by the Board of County Commissioners.
- 1 nurse and 1 disease investigator on staff over the weekend as cases come in over the weekend.
- All of our cases to date are from a known exposure; we're not seeing community spread.
- Arrival of first delivery of masks for low-income population in time for Governor's face mask mandate (36,000 masks). Rapid distribution by Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) to nearly 30 agencies and on 6/30/20 at 4 locations in the community.
- With the assistance of DCH, PSMMC received Remdesivir.
- Reopening workgroup recommendation – though no longer required for businesses, a contact log is a good practice.
- Having COVID safety plans in place at businesses benefits successful response to positive employees, as seen recently at a local restaurant.
- City of College Place Hand sanitizer and mask drive-through distribution on 7/7/20 (300 vehicles) 7/9/20 (400 vehicles), and 8/25/20. Handout at their booth at Thursday Farmers Market.
- Meeting on 7/8/20 with DCH/WWEM/USFS/DNR to discuss preplanning for COVID testing, isolation and quarantine.
- Al fresco dining in Downtown Walla Walla and College Place are working well.
- CEPHEID rapid testing machine is now being fully utilized by PSMMC at full capacity.
- Planning for isolation and quarantine of wildland firefighters with use of space at Walla Walla Community College.
- DCH work with large Oregon employer to coordinate cases with Umatilla County; providing education and resources (Health Fair) for employees.
- Hand washing stations at several locations in Downtown Walla Walla.
- [Washington National Guard Title 32 extension through Christmas](#). WNG remain critical to local food bank operations.



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- DCH received 36K cloth masks from GCACH (also received 24K KN95s) in August; giving them out at health fairs.
- Highest number of COVID patients at PSMMC since the beginning of the pandemic on 8/11/20, and yet the hospital wasn't overwhelmed.
- Health Fairs: Smith Frozen Foods (August 6), First Fruits (August 12), Tyson Fresh Meats (August 20), Valle Lindo Homes (August 27), Walla Walla River Packing (August 28), & Kiska Farms (September 1), education, masks, hand sanitizer and CDC fliers (Spanish and English) distributed with team from PSMMC & DCH.
- DCH agreement with Whitman College to use North Hall for isolation and quarantine extended until 10/31.
- DCH/Providence/FMC/WWC have aligned their response for population asking for medical note to not wear a mask (exception to required mask wearing); consistent info/guidance that they are not providing notes to patients.
- Community Roundtable discussions for school reopening planning (Cities of Walla Walla, College Place & Waitsburg); looking at effects on workplace, childcare, behavioral health held during the week of August 17 were well attended
- Department of Commerce Shelter Grant approved for the Sleep Center and purchase of a mobile unit to provide support around the county (2 or 3-year grant).
- 'Testing for Heroes' at PSMMC; employee and first responder antibody testing, initial figures show 60% participation by PSMMC employees.
- City of College Place door-to-door distribution of masks and disinfectant to businesses with the assistance of Chamber of Commerce.
- Slow trend downward in cases.
- Utilization of WNG for filling WEBEOC request for LTC weekly testing to comply with CMS guidelines.
- Work with Providence on future isolation & quarantine options.
- Whitman College success with students following mask wearing guidelines.
- [Veteran's Stand Down](#) on September 26th at VA Hospital.
- Whitman College extending agreement for use of North Hall for isolation and quarantine to the end of November.
- LTC facility that WWEM arranged WNG support for testing to meet CMS requirements report that LT Johnson has provided 'amazing support'; making contact, staying in touch nearly daily to assess needs, and provide ongoing support if/when they need it.

3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases—
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 928
 - ❖ Active: 71
 - Home Isolation: 70
 - Hospitalized: 1 – Walla Walla County residents
 - ❖ Deaths: 5
 - ❖ Recovered: 852
 - Washington State Penitentiary (included in numbers above): 150 incarcerated (13 active) and 7 staff (1 active)
 - Positivity Rate: 5.1%



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- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Case investigation slowed by contacts not answering phone calls from DCH.
- Multiple concerns about school not reopening; daycare, work impacts, behavioral health.
- Challenges with return to in-person learning as school districts return to in-person at different rates.
- PSMMC is still looking for a Caregiver Health RN; Kadlec to help fill in.
- Getting vaccination drive-through's set up for winter.
- CMS updated guidance for visitation conflicts with Washington Safe Start; State is stricter.
- Halloween guidelines release – will be difficult to get the community to abide by.

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations from the community.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- Submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Ongoing communications of the State's 'Smart Start' information down to the local level to ensure local businesses understand the requirements for Phase 2 operations.
- Reopening Business Workgroup:
 - Weekly Business Resource Town Hall
 - Visitor's Center kiosk on Main Street giving out masks
 - Masks and educational postcards are being given out at hotels, short-term rentals or visitors; postcards at the Walla Walla Regional Airport for arriving passengers (there are extra cards available for other businesses)
 - Cities of Walla Walla and College Place exploring options for winterizing/heating outdoor dining spaces
 - Salvation Army foodbank operations (information in food boxes), ongoing
 - Working on a Holiday Shopping Guide
- DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary. WNG is providing testing support.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition –



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- Facilitating Weekly Regional COVID Updates (Tuesdays 3-3:30pm) for hospital, EM, EMS, and PH partners
- Supporting the Crisis Standards of Care Regional Clinical Triage Team which is ready and waiting to activate if needed
- Facilitating DMCC briefings (Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30am) to share situational awareness regarding patient placement
- Running the Situational Awareness Response Process (Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am)
- Running the REDi Resource Coordination Process
- REDi Regional Response Plan trainings for partners
- DCH providing weekly status report to public and private schools to assist them with opening reopening plans.
- Local COVID-19 vaccine planning continues as clinical trials move forward. Looking into availability of dry ice.
- Flu Roundup drive through flu immunization clinic on Saturday, October 24th, at PSMC Southgate Campus. PSMC planning to utilize 2nd year nursing students; potential for using nursing students to administer COVID-19 vaccine.
- Washington National Guard deployed to assist with testing at LTC facility to meet CMS requirements.
- DOH working on plans for an outside courier to transport COVID tests.
- WWEM working on order of KN95 masks for public schools.
- DCH is continuing to work with Providence on future isolation and quarantine options.
- State to deploy antigen test kits; tests are best for people with symptoms, will be part of overall state numbers.
- DCH will send out Halloween guidelines.
- LTC facilities to continue to test based off of CMS requirements to test if positivity rate over 5%.
- Whitman College assessing whether they will be able to open to in-person learning in the Spring.

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REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 10/11 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

- October 1:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH team completed a DOH survey on priorities and capacity for Flu and Covid Vaccine
- DCH looking into an Ultracold Freezer for vaccine storage
- DCH attending Vaccine planning meetings with DOH
- DCH 'Health Space' training completed for health data management
- DCH, Emergency Management, and neighboring SE counties collaborative meeting with US Forest Service and DNR planning for safety during Wildfire season response relating to Covid-19



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- DCH and BMAC continue to coordinate community mask distributions
- DCH convened meeting with local schools to review and discuss plans for opening in the fall. Discussions around risks and challenges, sports activities, sharing plans and ideas to support each other through development and implementation of safety plans
- DCH is developing Spanish language materials to distribute to various Spanish language community settings by DCH staff and volunteers
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH and City of Walla Walla continue temporary shelter planning for isolation of unsheltered cases
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with symptoms (hours are now limited due to heat concerns between 6am-12pm)
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, September 29th
- DCH attending daily DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- Counties & Cities continue working online, telephone, virtual to limit interactions with the public
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

COMMUNICATIONS:

- One-Stop for Users: City of Walla Walla's website and Department of Community Health's website now linked together. <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/our-city/covid-19>
- Spanish-language posts to Facebook by DCH; shared on (WWEM) Facebook page.
- U.S. Senator Cantwell has a website with Resources and Information for Washingtonians and Small Businesses Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis: www.cantwell.senate.gov
- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>



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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office